

Attorney Docket No.: 108-151USAN90

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Continuation Application of:

Applicants : Constantine J. Tsikos; et a.
Application No.: 09/990,585
Filing Date : November 21, 2001

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced Patent Application, please amend the same as follows:

AMENDMENT OF THE TITLE TO INVENTION

Please amend the Title To Invention to read as follows:

--OBJECT IDENTIFICATION AND ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION ACQUISITION AND
LINKING COMPUTER SYSTEM--

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph of Page 1, entitled "Cross-Reference to Related U.S. Application" as follows:

This is a Continuation of copending Application No. 09/990,585 filed November 21, 2001 which is a Continuation-in-Part of: copending Application Serial No. 09/999,687 [09/---,--- [not yet assigned]] filed October 31, 2001 [[Attorney Docket 108-146USA000]]; copending Application Serial No. 09/954,477 filed September 17, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/883,130 filed June 15, 2001, which is a Continuation-in-Part of Application Serial No. 09/781,665 filed February 12, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/780,027 filed February 9, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/721,885 filed November 24, 2000; [copending

Application Serial No. 09/047,146 filed March 24, 1998; copending Application Serial No. 09/157,778 filed September 21, 1998; copending Application Serial No. 09/274,265, filed March 22, 1999; International Application Serial No. PCT/US/99/06505 filed March 24, 1999, and published as WIPO WO 99/49411;] Application Serial No. 09/327,756 filed June 7, 1999; and International Application Serial No. PCT/US00/15624 filed June 7, 2000, published as WIPO WO 00/75856 A1; each said application being commonly owned by Assignee, Metrologic Instruments, Inc., of Blackwood, New Jersey, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein in its entirety.

On Page 93, please delete the seventh full paragraph as follows:

[Fig. 1V5 is a schematic representation of a presentation-type bar code symbol reading system embodying the PLIIM-based subsystem of Fig. 1V1;]

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS TO INVENTION:

Please cancel Claims 1-669 and add new Claims 670-690 as follows:

--670. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system having a stand-alone form factor, and capable of being connected to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism operably connected to said first and second data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking each input object identification data element, with one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, and transporting the combined data elements to a database

subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--

--671. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, which further comprises:

- a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

- a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

- a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

- a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

--672. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--

--673. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

--674. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

--675. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

--676. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, which further comprises:

a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.--

--677. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements. --

--678. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected;

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking software stored on said associated memory architecture, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

--679. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--

--680. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

--681. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

--682. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

--683. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, which further comprises:

a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.--

--684. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements. --

-- 685. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a first set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, in operable association with said first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--

--686. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, which further comprises:

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

--687. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 686, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--

--688. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 686, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

--689. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

--690. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

AMENDMENT OF THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

--An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprises a housing; a first set of programmable data input ports, which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from the one or more of object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein the object identification data generating source is disposed external to the housing; a second set of programmable data input ports which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and is capable of receiving object attribute data elements from one or more object attribute data generating sources using the networking protocol; and a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, which is provided in operable association with the first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to the data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--

REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.121

As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean version of the first paragraph of Page 1 is as follows:

This is a Continuation of copending Application No. 09/990,585 filed November 21, 2001 which is a Continuation-in-Part of: copending Application Serial No. 09/999,687 filed October 31, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/954,477 filed September 17, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/883,130 filed June 15, 2001, which is a Continuation-in-Part of Application Serial No. 09/781,665 filed February 12, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/780,027 filed February 9, 2001; copending Application Serial No. 09/721,885 filed November 24, 2000; Application Serial No. 09/327,756 filed June 7, 1999; and International Application Serial No. PCT/US00/15624 filed June 7, 2000, published as WIPO WO 00/75856 A1; each said application being commonly owned by Assignee, Metrologic Instruments, Inc., of Blackwood, New Jersey, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein in its entirety.

Also required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean set of the amended Claims is provided herebelow:

670. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system having a stand-alone form factor, and capable of being connected to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

- a housing;

- a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

- a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

- a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism operably connected to said first and second data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking each input object identification data element, with one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, and transporting the combined data elements to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.

671. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, which further comprises:

- a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

- a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

- a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

- a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input

port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

672. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

673. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

674. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

675. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.

676. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 671, which further comprises:

- a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

- a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.

677. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements.

678. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

- a housing;

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected;

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking software stored on said associated memory architecture, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

679. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

680. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

681. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

682. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.

683. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, which further comprises:

- a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

- a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.

684. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 678, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements.

685. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

- a housing;

- a first set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

- a second set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

- data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, in operable association with said first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic

queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.

686. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, which further comprises:

- a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

- a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

- a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

- a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

687. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 686, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

688. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 686, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

689. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

690. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.

As further required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, the Abstract as amended reads as follows:

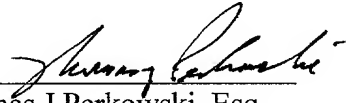
An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprises a housing; a first set of programmable data input ports, which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from the one or more of object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein the object identification data generating source is disposed external to the housing; a second set of programmable data input ports which is provided through the exterior of the housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and is capable of receiving object attribute data elements from one or more object attribute data generating sources using the networking protocol; and a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, which is provided in operable association with the first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to the data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.

REMARKS

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 16-1340. A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 5, 2002

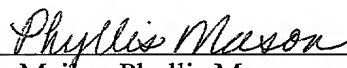

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10

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Mayer: Phyllis Mason
Dated: March 5, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Continuation Application of:

Applicants : Constantine J. Tsikos, et al.
Application No.: 09/990,585
Filing Date : November 21, 2001

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF INVENTORSHIP OF UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b)

Sir:

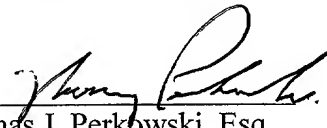
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) the undersigned attorney requests deletion of the following inventors for the present Continuation Application: Constantine Tsikos, Xiaoxun Zhu, Michael D. Schnee, Ka Man Au, Allan Wirth, Timothy A. Good, Andrew Jankevics, Charles A. Naylor, Thomas Amundsen, Robert Blake, William Svedas, Pirooz Vatan, Russell Joseph Dobbs, George Kolis, Jeffery Yorsz, Patrick A. Giordano, Stephen J. Colavito, David W. Wilz, Sr., Barry E. Schwartz, Steve Y. Kim, Dale Fischer, and John Van Tassell.

Upon deletion, the correct list of named inventors will include: C. Harry Knowles, Sankar Ghosh, Shawn Defoney, Edward Skypala, and Mark C. Schmidt.

If deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$130.00, as set forth in §1.17(i), to Deposit Account 16-1340. A copy of this document is included herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 5, 2002


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Phyllis Mason
Møller: Phyllis Mason
Dated: March 5, 2002